

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed December 14, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

At page 2 of the Action, the drawings filed September 24, 2004 are approved. However, a supplemental response was filed October 5, 2004 including replacement sheets 4/8, 5/8, 6/8 and 7/8. It is requested that these replacement sheets also be approved.

At page 2 of the Action, claim 9 is objected to. Claim 9 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, this objection is moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 9-12, 14, 17-18, 28 and 30 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,105,168 ("DaSilva"). Claims 1-5, 9-12, 14, 17-18, 28 and 30 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, this rejection is moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7, 13 and 27 were rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,105,168 ("DaSilva") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,568,078 ("Lee"). Claims 7, 13 and 27 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, this rejection is moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowed claims

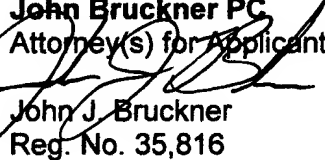
At page 1, item 5 and page 5 of the office action, the Examiner indicates that Claims 6, 8, 15-16 and 19-24 are allowed. This allowance of subject matter is very much appreciated. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-14, 17-18 and 25-30 are canceled.

Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. In view of the above, all the claims are considered patentable and allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned (at direct line 512-694-9145) for prompt action in the event any issues remain that prevent the allowance of any pending claims.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.136(a) pertaining to patent application processing fees, Applicant requests an extension of time from March 14, 2004 to April 14, 2004 in which to respond to the Office Action dated December 14, 2004. A notification of extension of time is filed herewith.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3204 of John Bruckner PC.

Respectfully submitted,

John Bruckner PC
Attorney(s) for Applicant(s)

John J. Bruckner
Reg. No. 35,816

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5708 Back Bay Lane
Austin, TX 78739-1723
Tel. (512) 394-0118
Fax. (512) 394-0119